

April 10, 2015

VIA email: [k.oshiro@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:k.oshiro@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Senator Laura Thielen  
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land

Aloha mai e Chair Thielen and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

Re: Governor's Message No. 837 & 838, Wayne Tanaka  
Governor's Nominee  
Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
Kāneʻohe Bay Regional Council  
Expiration Date: June 30, 2015 & June 30, 2019

Per your letter dated April 9, 2015 with regards to GM837 and 838, please find below the requested information regarding my nomination:

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Kāneʻohe Bay Regional Council?

As a public policy advocate with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, I am tasked with assisting the agency carry out its statutory responsibilities relating to advocacy on behalf of our beneficiaries, including advocacy regarding the protection of Hawai'i's cultural and natural resources for Native Hawaiians. As the OHA designee to the Kāneʻohe Bay Regional Council, I will be able to better fulfill these responsibilities, particularly with regards to the natural and cultural resources of Kāneʻohe Bay of which I am also personally familiar.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Kāneʻohe Bay Regional Council?

The Kāneʻohe Bay Regional Council is tasked with facilitating the implementation of the Kāneʻohe Bay master plan relating to ocean activities; collecting and disseminating information relating to ocean use activities in the bay; making recommendations to the state and county regarding public policy in the bay; educating the public regarding the needs of the bay; and monitoring fishing activities in the bay; among other functions. The Council is also required to meet quarterly to review the status of the implementation of the master plan, and to host a chapter 92 public meeting every year. Accordingly, members of the Council should act with due diligence in prioritizing and executing these functions, including through regular attendance at Council meetings, familiarity with the

Kāneʻohe Bay master plan and its progress, and timely communication with each other as well as with stakeholders, agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

(3) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I believe that my legal training and public policy background with respect to both Native Hawaiian interests and marine resource management will allow me to assist the Council in carrying out its statutory functions and responsibilities, including its responsibility as a state body to protect and enforce the traditional and customary rights of Native Hawaiians. I believe I may be particularly useful in providing guidance or finding resources relating to legal processes and agency functions, analyses of potential legal issues, and the development of creative solutions to problems and concerns facing the Council and Kāneʻohe Bay stakeholders.

(4) Is there any other information regarding your experience and background that you believe should be considered by the committee?

As a long-time resident of Kāneʻohe, I have spent much of my life fishing and recreating within Kāneʻohe Bay. I feel that my familiarity with the bay and the various activities occurring within it will provide me with additional insight as a member of the Council, as well as inform my concern for and commitment to the Council's many statutory functions.

Please find attached my resume, as requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Tanaka', with a stylized, flowing script.

Wayne Tanaka

# Wayne Tanaka

---

46-271 Kahuhipa St., Apt. #E-107, Kāneʻohe, HI 96744

## QUALIFICATIONS

A self-driven and socially conscious attorney with a strong background in administrative law and policy, and a lifelong passion for Hawaiʻi's unique natural and cultural resources. Approaches problems with a critical and strategic mindset. Values teamwork, initiative, and positive interpersonal relationships as critical components in accomplishing complex tasks.

## EDUCATION

William S. Richardson School of Law, J.D., May 2009  
GPA: 3.67/4.00

Harvey Mudd College, B.S. General Engineering, May 2006  
GPA: 3.49/4.00

## HONORS & ACTIVITIES

Board of Directors, Kuaʻāina Ulu ʻAuamo, 2013-present  
Secretary, Board of Directors, Conservation Council for Hawaiʻi, 2013-present  
Board of Directors, King Kamehameha Hawaiian Civic Club, 2012-present  
Community Board Member, Advocates for Public Interest Law, 2011-present  
Community Organizer, HealthyPacific.org, 2011-present  
Communications Chair, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party, 2012-2013  
President, Board of Directors, Korean American Bar Association Hawaiʻi, 2011-2013  
Active member, Hawaiʻi State Bar Association, 2009-present  
Advisory Committee, Hawaiʻi Immigrant Justice Center at Legal Aid, 2009-present

Office of Hawaiian Affairs Employee of the Quarter, 2014  
Oʻahu Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs Helen C. Kane Award, 2013  
CALI Awards in: Organizing for Social Change (2009), Race, Culture, & the Law (2009),  
Native Hawaiian Rights (2008), International Law (2008), Constitutional  
Law II (2008), Legal Practice I (2006)  
Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing Best Environmental Law Seminar Paper, 2008  
Chris Iijima Fellowship APIL Grantee, 2008  
Vice President, Pacific-Asian Legal Studies Organization, 2008  
Harvey Mudd College Dean's List, 2003-2006  
President, Claremont Colleges Hawaiʻi Club, 2005-2006

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

*Hoʻona aku, Hoʻōla aku: First Steps to Averting the Tragedy of the Commons in Hawaiʻi's Nearshore Fisheries*, 10 ASIAN-PACIFIC LAW AND POLICY JOURNAL 236 (2008)  
available at [http://blog.hawaii.edu/aplpj/files/2011/11/APLPJ\\_10.1\\_tanaka.pdf](http://blog.hawaii.edu/aplpj/files/2011/11/APLPJ_10.1_tanaka.pdf)

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

**Office of Hawaiian Affairs**, September 2012-Present  
Public Policy Advocate  
-Advocate for policies that support the betterment of Native Hawaiians through written and oral testimony to various governmental decisionmakers, with a specific focus on the areas of

# Wayne Tanaka

---

46-271 Kahuhipa St., Apt. #E-107, Kāneʻohe, HI 96744

environmental resources, traditional and cultural practices, ceded lands, and related topics.  
-Provide additional support for public policy functions, including editing testimonies and correspondences, responding to beneficiary inquiries, attending committee meetings, and ceremonial pū blowing.

## **Kuaʻāina Ulu ʻAuamo, April 2012 – January 2013**

Project Coordinator, Hawaiʻi Fish Trust Enforcement Chain Analysis

-Developed and executed a systemic analysis of the “enforcement chain” for aquatic resources violations, to identify barriers and suggest recommendations for enhancing law enforcement functions in the nearshore fisheries context.

## **Hawaiʻi Department of Land & Natural Resources, August 2009 – September 2012**

DLNR-DAR Marine Law Fellow

- Identified, researched, and advocated for institutional changes needed to more effectively and consistently enforce state resource laws.
- Worked with community partners and non-profit organizations to facilitate the establishment of community-based fisheries management initiatives.
- Supervised and coordinated with three legal interns to research regulatory issues, institutional limitations, and possible initiatives for fostering community participation in resource management.
- Coordinated with deputy attorneys general, biologists, department administration, and law enforcement in the analysis and revision of aquatics regulations and statutes.
- Drafted BLNR submittals for rule changes and administrative enforcement actions.

## **Native Hawaiian Rights Handbook, August 2008 – May 2009**

Research Assistant

-Conducted comprehensive research and writing on various topics for the revised edition of the Native Hawaiian Rights Handbook, including konohiki fishing rights, fishpond regulations and management, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, and shoreline access.

## **Hawaiʻi Immigrant Justice Center at Legal Aid, June 2007 – Present**

Law Clerk/Volunteer Attorney

-Worked with staff attorneys on legal research and brief writing on various administrative law cases and issues; fundraised for the second, third, fourth, and fifth annual Chris Iijima Fellowships; and assisted with grant writing for community outreach programs.

## **REFERENCES**

References available upon request.